Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Chosin Few was named for a group of combatants who participated in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, November-December 1950; and,

Whereas, The Chosin Few was founded on April 22, 1983, formally recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, and has over 4,500 members from all U.S. branches of the service, plus South Koreans, former British Marine Commandos, and former Royal Australian Air Force members; and,

Whereas, Approximately 20,000 allied ground troops, made up of approximately 17,000 men of the 1st Marine Division and attached British Royal Marines plus a regimental combat team of U.S. Army 7th Division troops, faced approximately 120,000 Chinese communist forces in 10 divisions, whose orders were to annihilate the 1st Marine Division "to the last man"; and,

Whereas, The battle was fought in the mountainous terrain of North Korea in sub-zero winter conditions, resulting in close to 15,000 casualties, including 2,500 killed in action, over 5,000 wounded in action and the remainder having suffered severe frost-bite and cold injuries; and,

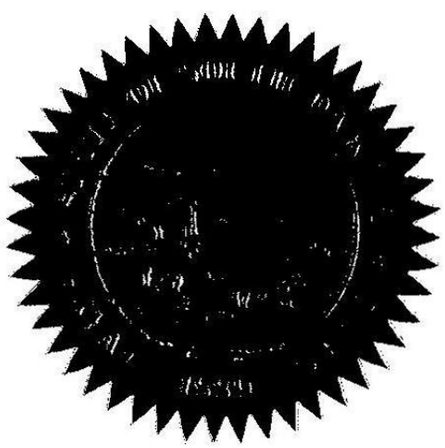
Whereas, This battle of Chosin, also referred to as "The Forgotten War," has been termed by historians as the most savage battle in modern warfare; and,

Whereas, Members of the Chosin Few will gather at the Ramada Inn, Rapid City, South Dakota, on May 19-22, 2004, to share companionship and the everlasting remembrance of those who did not survive the battle:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 19-22, 2004, as

CHOSIN FEW DAYS

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State